

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18, and 20 are pending in this application. By this amendment claims 1, 7, and 15 have been amended and new claims 21-25 have been added. A prompt and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Receipt of the IDS

On page 2, lines 5-6, the Examiner questions why the IDS was filed. In particular the Examiner states:

It is unclear why applicant has filed a third IDS listing these references. Clarification is required.

The Applicant filed the subject IDS due to the Examiner's statement set forth in the Advisory Action dated 10/25/00 (i.e. paper 18). In particular, the aforementioned Examiner's statement reads as follows:

The IDS was not considered since no petition or petition fee was received.

Applicant apologizes for any confusion the submitting of the IDS may have caused.

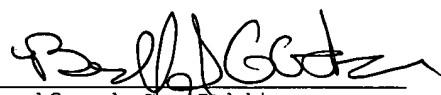
35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. As indicated above independent claims 1, 7 and 15 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Support for the aforementioned amendments can be found, for example, in FIG. 13 of the subject patent application. Accordingly, each of claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20 is believed to be in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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